

November 25, 2009

To Families and Guardians of Walker-Jones and Scott Montgomery Students,

Over the last six weeks we have been listening to feedback from parents, staff and community members about the proposal to close Scott Montgomery and move students to Walker-Jones. Many of you have raised questions and concerns through our community meetings, parent and staff meetings, and many have provided written feedback on the proposal.

We are taking this feedback very seriously and wanted to provide an update based on some of the questions and concerns that have been shared. Attached you will find an updated version of the Frequently Asked Questions document that includes the most common questions we have received to date. Here are some highlights:

- **Student Safety**
For example, we have heard concerns about student safety in getting to and from school. We have met with the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) and Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) to identify preferred walking routes based on traffic and other safety measures. Additionally, we are exploring the feasibility of offering a bus in between the Scott Montgomery and Walker-Jones school buildings in the morning and afternoon.
- **Maintaining Stability in School Programs and Leadership**
We also heard concerns about ensuring as much stability as possible for students at both schools. At Walker-Jones, many school community members expressed a strong desire for Mr. Ellis to remain in place since he has been an extremely positive presence at the school. We are pleased that both Mr. Ellis and Principal Martin support this if the proposal is implemented.

Some parents with children at Scott Montgomery expressed concerns about the continuity of afterschool programming for their students. We have also talked to several after school providers that currently serve Scott Montgomery students and all have committed to working with us to continue to offer services to these students if the proposal is implemented.

We are continuing to receive, review, and respond to feedback and encourage you to continue your communication with us if you have any additional questions or concerns. I anticipate that I will make a final recommendation to the mayor on this proposal in mid-December.

Principal Jeffrey Grant at Walker-Jones and Principal Melissa Martin at Scott Montgomery are happy to answer questions as well, and you are welcome to contact Margie Yeager in the central office who is engaging with both school communities. She can be reached at Margery.Yeager@dc.gov or 202-442-5612.

Sincerely,



Michelle Rhee
Chancellor